

Women Change America

List of National Women's History Week/Month Honorees since 1980

Bella Abzug (1920-1998)

Congresswoman, Women's Rights Activist

Abzug was a founder and national legislative director of Women Strike for Peace from 1961 to 1970. She served 3 terms in Congress (1970-1976) where she worked to end the Vietnam War and the draft. She was presiding officer at the first government sponsored women's conference at Houston in 1977. In 1990, she co-founded the International Women's Environment and Development Organization to provide visibility and support for working women.

Abigail Adams (1744-1818)

Women Rights Advocate

As a self-educated woman, Adams held well-informed strong political beliefs. In over two thousand letters written to her husband John, to family and friends, and to government officials, she articulately expressed her ideas on the American Revolution, the new nation, the American family, foreign courts, and war. Well respected, her opinions were influential in government affairs before, during, and after her husband's term as president.

Rebecca Adamson (1950-)

Native American Advocate

A member of the Cherokee nation, in 1980 Adamson founded the First Nations Development Institute. This group has established new standards of accountability regarding federal responsibility and reservation land reform and has an operating budget of about three million dollars. Adamson has aided indigenous peoples in Australia and Africa also and has received many awards for mobilizing and unifying people to solve common problems.

Jane Addams (1860–1935)

Social Worker

Addams founded Hull House in Chicago in 1889, America's first settlement house providing English language classes, childcare, health education, and recreational programs for poor immigrant families. From 1919 until her death, Addams was president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, the first American woman so honored, for her unending dedication to the causes of peace and social justice.

Marian Anderson (1902-1993)

Singer

Anderson was denied permission to perform at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. by the Daughters of the American Revolution – because she was black. Undaunted, she sang at the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday, 1939, to an audience of 75,000. With a voice that “comes once in a century,” Anderson was the first black singer to perform at the Metropolitan Opera in 1955. Her talent and quiet determination opened doors for other black classical performers.

Mary Anderson (1872–1964)

Labor Activist

Anderson's keen negotiating skills and labor activism, especially on behalf of working women, won her an appointment in 1920 as the first director of the Women's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Labor.

During her 24 years there, she played a major role in winning federal minimum wage and maximum hour laws for women. After retiring in 1944, Anderson continued to advocate on behalf of working women.

Ethel Percy Andrus (1884–1967)

Elder Rights Activist

Andrus was the founder of the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) in 1947 and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in 1958. As its first president, Andrus pioneered nursing home reform legislation, often testified before Congress on issues of concern to senior citizens, and challenged mandatory retirement laws. She showed Americans of all ages that older people can and do live productive, useful, and purposeful lives.

Maya Angelou (1928-)

Author/Poet

Angelou is a novelist, poet, professional stage and screen writer, dancer, editor, lecturer, songwriter, and civil rights activist. Most notable among her publications are autobiographical novels starting with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, published in 1970, which helped establish the memoir as a popular genre. In 1993, Angelou recited an original poem at President Clinton's inauguration, confirming her status as "a people's poet."

Susan B. Anthony (1820- 1906)

Women's Rights Activist, Suffragist

Susan B. Anthony began her life-long campaign for woman suffrage when she met Stanton in 1852. They organized the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. Anthony edited its newspaper, traveled extensively, organizing and lecturing. When committed people work for justice, she said, "Failure is Impossible." The Nineteenth Amendment, passed in 1920, has been called the "Anthony Amendment" in tribute to the tireless work of this great crusader.

Virginia Apgar (1909-1974)

Physician, Anesthesiologist

Apgar graduated in 1933 from Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1949, she became the first full professor of anesthesiology at Columbia. In 1952, she developed the internationally adopted Apgar Score System which measures a newborn infant's heart rate, respiration, muscle tone, reflexes and color. She joined the National Foundation – March of Dimes in 1959, and in 1967, she became director of basic research for the Foundation.

Judith F. Baca (1946-)

Artist

Determined to give all people a voice in public art and urban culture, Baca organized over 1,000 young people in Los Angeles to create more than 250 murals citywide. Starting in 1974, her massive works have brought together young people from different ethnic neighborhoods to explore their cultural histories and make connections to their lives today. Since 1987, Baca has been creating an enormous portable mural called the "World Wall" to promote global peace.

Ella Baker (1903–1986)

Political Activist

Baker worked steadily for 50 years to gain civil and voting rights for blacks. As Field Secretary and later Director of Branches for the NAACP, from 1938–1946, she traveled extensively in the segregated South, often at great peril. Baker helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1958, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960, and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964.

Clara Barton (1821- 1912)

Nurse, American Red Cross Founder

Barton began her humanitarian work in the Civil War when she collected and delivered supplies and nursed wounded Union soldiers. She was called the “Angel of the Battlefield.” In 1869, she learned about the work of the International Red Cross, founded in 1863 in Geneva. Barton helped convince the United States to sign the Geneva treaty in 1882, and in 1893, she became president of the American Red Cross. For 22 years, Barton led its disaster relief work.

Catherine Beecher (1800-1852)

Author, Educator

Beecher was a dedicated advocate of education for women. Beecher founded the Hartford Female Seminary in 1827 and later opened schools in western towns to train women to be teachers and strong mothers. Her 1869 book, *The American Woman’s Home*, gave basic information on child rearing, housekeeping, and cooking. She endorsed exercise, non-restrictive clothes, fresh air, and good food to develop healthy women able to raise educated citizens.

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)

Educator, Presidential Advisor

In 1904, Bethune opened a school for black girls in Daytona Beach that became Bethune-Cookman College in 1929. She was its president until 1942. In 1935, she founded the National Council of Negro Women and was its president until 1949. From 1936 to 1944, Bethune served as advisor to President Roosevelt on minority affairs. She was vice-president of NAACP from 1940 to 1955. In 1945, she attended the organizing conference of the United Nations.

Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910)

Doctor

Blackwell became the first woman doctor when she graduated from Geneva Medical School in 1849. Blackwell and two other women doctors opened the New York Infirmary for Women and Children in 1857. During the Civil War, she assisted in selecting and training nurses. She and her sister opened the Women’s Medical College in New York in 1868. Returning to her native England, she was a professor of gynecology at the London School of Medicine for Children.

Gertrude Bonnin (1876-1938)

Indian Rights Activist, Writer

Growing up on a reservation and attending missionary schools, Bonnin faced pressures from the white community to ignore her mother’s Sioux culture. In 1901, she compiled an anthology, *Old Indian Legends* and in 1913, she wrote an opera, *The Sun Dance*. From 1918 to 1919, she was editor of the *American Indian Magazine*. She created the National Council of American Indians in 1926 to fight for rights and equality for American Indians.

Margaret Bourke-White (1904-1971)

Photojournalist

Bourke-White was the first female photojournalist, working for *Fortune* magazine and *Life* magazine. She published photos of the depression in a book, *You have Seen Their Faces*. During World War II, she documented military action in Africa and Europe. Bourke-White later photographed Gandhi’s non-violent protests in India. Her images of the Great Depression, WWII, and the liberation of the concentration camps reveal the startling human side of historical events.

Carol Moseley Braun

US Senator

Braun was the first black woman Senator, serving from 1992 to 1998, after ten years in the Illinois House

of Representatives. In 1998, she worked with the Dept. of Education developing programs to assist minority and women college students. From 1999 to 2001, Braun was ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa. Braun was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president in 2003, but withdrew in January 2004.

Pearl Buck (1892-1973)

Author, Humanitarian

Buck wrote more than 100 books using a variety of themes and many locales including China, Russia, and America. In 1931, she won the Pulitzer Prize for her book *The Good Earth*. She won the Nobel Prize in 1938 for her writings, the first American woman so honored. She founded Welcome House, an adoption agency for Asian-American children in 1949. The Pearl S. Buck Foundation was set up in 1964 to aid half-American children throughout Asia.

Sarah Buel (1953-)

Domestic Violence Activist, Attorney

Escaping domestic violence in her own life, Sarah Buel became an impassioned advocate for the legal rights of battered women and abused children. Believing that if she became an attorney she could best defend and advocate for battered women and their children, she graduated from Harvard Law School and now runs a legal clinic for battered women. She is also co-founder and co-director of the National Training Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Nannie Helen Burroughs (1879-1961)

Educator, School Founder

"We specialize in the wholly impossible," describes the school Burroughs opened for black girls and women in 1909 with seven students. The National Training School for Women and Girls opened in Washington, D.C., combining classical and trade courses with required black history classes. By the 1960s, thousands from around the world had received an education of junior college quality. In 1964, the school became the Nannie Helen Burroughs Elementary School.

Edna Campbell (1968-)

Professional Athlete, Spokesperson for Breast Cancer Awareness

A professional basketball player with the WNBA Sacramento Monarchs and a breast cancer survivor, Edna Campbell travels across the country as a spokesperson for breast cancer awareness, encouraging women to do regular breast exams and inspiring those with cancer to have hope and courage in challenging the disease. She uses these opportunities to recognize other survivors and to raise money for breast cancer research.

Rachel Carson (1907–1964)

Biologist, Pioneer Environmentalist

Carson's research and writings awakened worldwide concern for our environment. In 1962, *Silent Spring* detailed the dangers of DDT and other pesticides. She warned that these chemicals contaminate humans, animals, and the entire "web of life." She wrote that "the central problem of our age has therefore become the contamination of [the] total environment." Considered very controversial at first, her ideas became the foundation of the modern environmental movement.

Mary Shadd Cary (1823-1893)

Teacher, Journalist, Lawyer

Cary was born free in Delaware and taught for 10 years in schools for free blacks. In 1851, she moved to Canada to help blacks who had fled after the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 but were being fleeced by the sponsoring society. In 1853, she edited the helpful paper *Provincial Freeman*. In 1869, she moved to

Washington, earned a law degree from Howard University in 1883, and lectured on woman suffrage and the need for education for blacks and race improvement.

Willa Cather (1873-1947)

Writer

Cather wrote novels and short stories dealing with the struggles of European immigrants in the harsh environment of frontier Nebraska. After four years as an editor for *McClure's* in New York, Cather published her first novel in 1912 titled *Alexander's Bridge*. In 1923, she won the Pulitzer Prize for *One of Ours*. With strong, independent female characters, her novels capture pioneer traditions and also their collapse in the twentieth century.

Linda Chavez-Thompson (1944)

Labor Leader

Linda Chavez-Thompson, the daughter of sharecroppers, worked as an agricultural laborer before joining the labor union, eventually rising through the ranks of the AFL-CIO to become the first person of color, and the first woman, elected to be the Executive Vice-President of the AFL-CIO in 1995.

Shirley Chisholm (1924- 2005)

Activist and Congresswoman

In 1968, Chisholm became the first black woman elected to Congress where she served for 14 years. In 1972, she made history by campaigning for nomination by the Democratic Party for President, the first woman of color to seek the nation's highest office. Since her retirement from politics in 1982 she has lectured and written on human rights issues. As a professor at Mount Holyoke College, her courses included political science and women's studies.

Septima Clark (1898-1987)

Educator, Civil Rights Activist

Believing literacy to be the key to social and political power, Septima Clark trained teachers to work in citizenship schools across the south, teaching basic skills and empowering southern blacks to stand up for their rights as Americans. As an executive staff member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Clark took the SCLS's voter-registration and teacher-training programs into the deep south and registered thousands of new voters.

Alice Coachman (1923-)

Olympic Athlete

Coachman won her first Amateur Athletic Union national championship in the high jump in 1939. By 1946, she held national track and field championships in 50 and 100 meter dashes, 400 meter relay, and running high jump. Coachman was the first black woman to win a gold medal in the Olympics when she won in the high jump in London in 1948. Coachman entered the Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1975. Retired from competition, she coaches many young athletes.

Jacqueline Cochran (1910-1980)

World Renowned Pilot

Cochran began flying in 1932. She began competing in the Bendix Transcontinental Air Race in 1935 and won it in 1938. In 1941, she was a flight captain in the British Air Transport Auxiliary. Returning to America, she became the director of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots. In 1945, she was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. In 1953, Cochran became the first woman to break the sound barrier. Cochran received more than 200 awards as a pilot.

Bessie Coleman (1896-1926)***Pioneering Pilot***

Coleman, denied admission to American aviation schools, learned French and went to Europe where she took lessons from French and German aviators and learned to fly the German Fokker plane. In 1922, she earned an international pilot's license and became the first licensed black woman pilot. She became a stunt flyer where she thrilled observers and earned the title, "Brave Bessie." She founded a black aviation school and lectured at African-American schools.

Jill Ker Conway (1934-)***Educator, Writer, Historian***

Conway earned a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1969 where she studied the intellectual experiences of earlier American women. She was the first woman president of Smith College, serving from 1975 to 1985. Realizing the need for equality in pay and opportunity for women, she set up a research project, Women and Social Change. In addition to writing the histories of many American women, Conway has also written three autobiographical books.

Dorothy Day (1897–1980)***Social Reformer***

Co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement in 1933, Day dedicated her life to improving living conditions for the poor. She developed new ways of combating social ills, including the "direct mutual aid" concept, teaching the poor to help one another. Writer, suffragist, speaker, activist and publisher, Day aided conscientious objectors in World War II, demonstrated against the Vietnam war and supported the organizing efforts of farm workers in California.

Ada Deer (1935-)***American Indian and Civil Rights Activist***

Deer was the first member of the Menominee tribe of Wisconsin to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned an MS in Social Work from Columbia. Deer led her tribe in gaining passage of the Menominee Restoration Act, which restored their land and treaty rights as American Indians. At the national level, Deer became Deputy of Indian Affairs and is now the Director of the American Indian Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)***Poet***

Dickinson attended Amherst Academy and spent one year at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary. She returned to her home in 1848 and rarely traveled. She probably began writing poetry in the 1860s. Her correspondent, Thomas Higginson, counseled her against publication, but her school mate and lifelong friend Helen Hunt Jackson encouraged Dickinson to allow a few to be published in the 1870s. After her death, 1,775 pieces were found and published.

Dorothea Dix (1802-1887)***Social Reformer***

Dix started helping the mentally ill and prisoners when she visited the East Cambridge jail for women inmates in 1841. She saw the horrible conditions in the jail where mental patients and prisoners were thrown together in filth, some chained or kept in cages. She documented conditions there and in many states, persuaded legislatures across the nation to build more than 100 mental hospitals in the next 50 years and suggested many reforms in jails.

Amelia Earhart (1897–1937)*Pioneering Aviator*

Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932. She was the first person to fly solo non-stop from Hawaii to California in 1935 and the first to fly solo round-trip from the U.S. to Mexico. Five years later, after a dazzling array of “firsts,” Earhart disappeared attempting the first ‘round-the-world flight along the equator. Her adventurous life encouraged many to believe that women were capable of anything they could imagine.

Elizabeth Eckford (1942-)*Student Integrator*

Eckford was one of nine students selected to integrate Little Rock, Arkansas high school in 1957. Integration plans were postponed at the last minute, but Eckford did not get the message. She arrived alone and was taunted, jeered, and accosted. Photographs of her grace under pressure captured her agony and became an international symbol of the oppression of black students. After weeks of mob violence, Federal troops finally escorted the students on Sept. 25.

Marian Wright Edelman (1943-)*Children Rights Advocate, Civil Rights Activist*

From her earliest years, Edelman was encouraged to give hope and aid to others. As a lawyer, civil rights activist, and founder of the Children’s Defense Fund, she has provided a strong authoritative voice for those who have been denied the power to speak for themselves. For almost 40 years, she has advocated for quality health care, immunizations, nutritious food, and educational opportunities, providing hope and possibility to countless numbers.

Gertrude B. Elion (1918-1999)*Nobel Prize Biologist*

Elion shared the 1988 Nobel Prize in Medicine for pioneering work in inventing drugs to help in successful organ transplants, and others to counter acute leukemia, kidney disease and arthritis. They focused their research on the genetic differences between healthy and diseased cells. As scientist emeritus, Elion was named research professor of medicine at Duke University. In 1991, Elion became the first woman inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame.

Felisa Rincon de Gautier (1897-1994)*Political Activist*

Gautier began her political activism campaigning for woman suffrage in Puerto Rica which was won in 1932. She joined the Popular Democratic Party and in 1940 was president of its San Juan committee. From 1948 to 1968, she was mayor of San Juan. In her open government, many schools, daycare, and health centers were built. She was on the National Committee of the United States Democratic Party and was a delegate to the national conventions until 1992.

Althea Gibson (1927-2003)*Olympic Athlete*

Gibson was the first black tennis player to win at Wimbledon, 1957 and 1958; the Associated Press named her Woman Athlete of the Year for 1958. She had dominated women’s amateur tennis from 1947–1957, and in 1950, she was the first black woman to play in a major U.S. tournament. Gibson also played professional golf from 1963–1967. Gibson was the first black woman to join the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

Lillian Gilbreth (1878- 1972)*Industrial Engineer*

Gilbreth and her husband Frank pioneered industrial management techniques; as a widow, she applied these time and motion studies to home management and to assisting handicapped people at home and in the workplace. From 1935 to 1948, she was a professor of management at Purdue University and consultant on careers for women, creating a more realistic attitude toward the place of women in industry.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-)

Supreme Court Justice

Ginsburg became the second woman justice on the Supreme Court when she was nominated by President Clinton and confirmed in 1993. She graduated from Harvard and then Columbia Law School. At Harvard, she was editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. She argued the first sex-bias case before the Supreme Court and won 5 of the 6 cases which she argued dealing with unequal or unfair treatment of women.

Mary Katherine Goddard (1738- 1816)

Printer of the Declaration of Independence

Goddard and her mother published the “*Providence Gazette*” from 1765 to 1768. In 1774, she moved to Baltimore to help her brother with the “*Maryland Journal*,” Baltimore’s first newspaper; she became publisher in 1775. In January 1777, she printed the Declaration of Independence with the names of the signers. She became postmaster of Baltimore in 1775, an office she held for 14 year. She was removed from her position because she was a woman.

Emma Goldman (1869-1940)

Social Reformer, Anarchist

Goldman immigrated to the United States in 1885. She lectured and wrote about the dreadful working and living conditions of poor people. In 1893, she was jailed for inciting unemployed workers to riot. As a drama critic she helped introduce Ibsen, Shaw, Strindberg and others to American audiences. In 1917, she was jailed for two years for agitating against military conscription and then deported. In Europe, she continued to write and lecture for civil rights.

Katharine Graham (1917-2001)

Publisher

Graham was the first woman president of a Fortune 500 company when she became president and then publisher of the *Washington Post* from 1963 to 1979. In 1971, she resisted tremendous pressure and threats when she printed the Pentagon Papers. In 1972, she supported the aggressive investigation of the Watergate burglary. The *Post* received a Pulitzer Prize for public service in 1973. Her autobiography *Personal History* won a Pulitzer Prize in 1998.

Martha Graham (1894-1991)

Dancer, Choreographer

The foremost innovator in modern dance, Martha Graham’s 50-year dancing career began in 1920. She founded the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance in 1929 and later, dance companies in Israel and London. Her dances covered many themes, including Greek myths, biblical stories, lives of Joan of Arc and Emily Dickinson. In 1973, she published *The Notebooks of Martha Graham*, and in 1976, she was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Ford. .

Angelina Grimké (1805-1879) and Sarah Grimké (1792-1873)

Abolitionists and Women's Rights Advocates

The Grimké sisters, raised in a slave-holding South Carolina family, were among the first women to write and lecture against slavery. They wrote for the “*Liberator*,” and in 1836, Angelina published a pamphlet “An Appeal to Christian Women of the South.” Southern postmasters destroyed copies and a price was

put on their heads. They stayed North. Even there, they were criticized for their boldness, but they led the way for other women to speak.

Fannie Lou Hamer (1917–1977)

Civil Rights Activist

Hamer devoted 15 years to winning voting rights for blacks in the South. Despite beatings by the police, losing her job, and being forced from her home, Hamer continued organizing and demanding recognition and power in national politics for southern blacks. In 1964, she led the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party delegation to the Democratic Convention, forcing a change in the representation of women and minorities within state delegations.

Alice Hamilton (1869-1970)

Physician, Social Reformer

Hamilton was the first American doctor to investigate the physical hazards of working around carbon monoxide, lead, and other poisonous substances found in industrial plants. Her persistent efforts led to the first state workers' compensation law, better working conditions, and federal workplace-hazard standards and safety laws. She became an international expert on industrial diseases and alerted the public to industrial dangers.

Frances Watkins Harper (1825-1911)

Abolitionist, Lecturer, Author

Harper was born free in Baltimore, attended the Union Seminary in Ohio, and taught in Pennsylvania in 1852. Unable to return to Maryland because she could be captured and sold, she began antislavery lectures and published articles, poems and stories. Her 1859 story, "The Two Offers," is probably the first short story by a black author. Fighting racism took priority over woman suffrage; in 1896, she helped found and lead the National Association of Colored Women.

La Donna Harris (1931-)

Indian Rights and Civil Activist

Harris, member of the Comanche tribe, has served since 1970 as president of Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), a multi-tribal organization devoted to improving life for American Indians. She has served on the National Rural Housing Conference and the National Association of Mental Health. Harris has expanded the AIO to include the "American Indian Ambassadors" program, which provides one-year fellowships for Native American students.

Dorothy Height (1912-)

Humanitarian

As president of the National Council of Negro Women since 1958, her leadership gained international stature for the organization. Height has worked with every president and civil rights leader for 60 years. Her more than 50 awards include the 1989 Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service to the country, the 1993 Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, and the Congressional Gold Medal, its highest award, in 2004, for her work in promoting AIDS education.

Lillian Hellman (1905-1984)

Playwright, Screenwriter, Author

Beginning with *The Children's Hour* in 1934, Hellman's award-winning plays presented powerful and bitter pictures of intolerance and exploitation. One of many Hollywood screenwriters who refused to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee when asked about the politics of her friends and associates, Hellman was blacklisted from 1948 to the '60s. Her book, *An Unfinished Woman*, won a National Book Award in 1969.

Anita Hill (1956-)*Lawyer*

In 1991, Hill testified before an all-white, all-male Senate Judiciary Committee that she had been harassed by US Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. Her testimony led to national awareness and the creation and implementation of new policies by businesses, educational institutions, and government to identify and stop sexual harassment. She has written a book, *Speaking the Truth to Power*. In 1997, she joined the faculty at Brandeis University.

Dolores Huerta (1930-)*Labor Union Administrator*

In the 1950s, Huerta began teaching in a farm workers' community and saw the brutal poverty surrounding her students. In 1962, she co-founded with Cesar Chavez the United Farm Workers Union. She organized the members and through non-violence tactics, mounted a successful boycott of California table grapes. Her goal in life is to empower farm workers with information and skills to help them secure better living and working conditions.

Jovita Idár (1885–1946)*Journalist*

Idár reported discrimination against Mexican children and the lynchings of Mexicans by Texas Rangers for her father's newspaper, "La Cronica." In 1911, she co-founded La Liga Femenil Mexicanista (The League of Mexican Women) and was its first president. The women formed free schools for Mexican children and provided necessities for the poor. During the Mexican Revolution, Idár organized La Cruz Blanca (the White Cross) to nurse the wounded on both sides.

Shirley Jackson (1946-)*Physicist*

In 1973, Jackson was the first black woman to receive a Ph.D. from MIT. In 1991, she became a professor of physics at Rutgers University. President Clinton named her chair of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1995, where she helped set up the International Nuclear Regulators Association in 1997 to provide assistance to other nations on matters of nuclear safety. In 1999, she became president of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Mae Jemison (1956-)*Astronaut*

With a medical degree from Cornell University, Dr. Jemison spent three years as a Peace Corps Medical Officer in West Africa, and then worked in a refugee camp in Thailand. In 1992, now a NASA astronaut, she participated aboard Spacelab-J, the cooperative mission between the U.S. and Japan that conducted life science experiments in space. Jemison now pursues health care and science projects related to women and minorities.

Mary Harris “Mother” Jones (1830–1930)*Labor Organizer*

“Mother” Jones became a labor organizer at the age of 50 and then led strikes in mines and publicized dangers of child labor in textile mills for the next 50 years. She traveled constantly without a permanent home. Jones lead miners’ wives armed only with brooms and mops when they chased off Colorado strikebreakers. She lead a march of Pennsylvania child mill workers to President Roosevelt’s home on Long Island to dramatize the evils of child labor.

Helen Keller (1880–1968)*Advocate for Disadvantaged*

Despite being deaf, blind, and unable to speak, Keller became an active writer and international public speaker. She learned to communicate in 1887 with the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan. In 1904, she became the first deaf-blind person to earn a college degree. Her books and lectures advocating rights for disabled people helped the public recognize the potentials of people with physical limitations. She also supported suffrage for women and peace.

Billie Jean King (1943-)*Tennis Star and Women's Rights Advocate*

The most successful woman in professional tennis, King was top-ranked five times and was in the top ten for 17 years. She was the first woman athlete to earn \$100,000 a year, the holder of the most Wimbledon titles, as well as the first woman to coach a professional team. She has aggressively fought for equality for women athletes, for honest professionalism in tennis, and for implementation of Title IX in all sports.

Coretta Scott King (1927-)*Civil Rights Activist*

King graduated from Antioch College in music and gave concert programs in the 1940s. In 1962, King was a delegate to Women Strike for Peace conference in Geneva. Now she continues the civil rights work of her husband. She is the founding president of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change. In the 1980s, she led demonstrations against South African apartheid system. In 1969, she wrote a book titled *My Life With Martin Luther King Jr.*

Maxine Hong Kingston (1940-)*Author*

Kingston’s childhood in California was filled with Chinese traditions and stories, which sometimes conflicted with the “American” ideas she was learning in school. Her first book, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction in 1976. It was followed by two equally fine books which also celebrate the heritage and contributions of Chinese-American people.

Tsuyako "Sox" Kitashima (1919-)*Civil Rights Activist*

For a decade, Kitashima was a leader in the successful movement to win reparations for Japanese-Americans who had lost their homes and possessions and were forced to live in internment camps during

WWII. After years of pressure from Kitashima and other activists, in 1989 Congress passed the Entitlement Bill, providing \$20,000 to each surviving internee and an official apology for the internment.

Yuri Kochiyama (1922-)

Civil Rights Advocate

Born in California, Kochiyama was interned in a Japanese relocation center during WW II. After her release, she and her family moved to New York City where she took part in civil rights demonstrations. She met Malcolm X in 1963; they worked together to call attention to the struggle of oppressed people. Kochiyama founded Asian Americans for Action to link liberation efforts of blacks and Asian Americans by bringing down barriers and building bridges.

Maggie Kuhn (1905-1995)

Activist for Senior Citizens

In 1970, Kuhn founded the Gray Panthers to fight ageism, encouraging old and young people to work together. Kuhn was an outspoken advocate of rights for older people, showing that old people are strong, vibrant, and intelligent. Through the Gray Panthers, she sought improved health care, housing, and economic well-being for senior citizens. She wrote three books and worked internationally to promote a better understanding of human aging.

Dorothea Lange (1895-1965)

Photographer

Lange photographed bread lines in the depression years, living conditions of migrant workers in California in the 1930s, and documented the treatment of Japanese-Americans in WWII in the crowded internment camps. These powerful photographic images brought public attention to the inhumane conditions. "If any documents of this turbulent age are justified to endure," Ansel Adams wrote, "the photographs of Dorothea Lange shall, most certainly."

Emma Lazarus(1849-1887)

Poet, Translator

Lazarus is best known for her sonnet "The New Colossus" which is inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty. She also published several volumes of poetry and novels. After the Russian pogroms of the 1880s, Lazarus became a spokeswoman for Judaism and was an early advocate of a national Jewish homeland in Palestine. She played a central part in setting up the Hebrew Technical Institute to aid the newly arrived Russian Jews in New York.

Gerda Lerner (1920-)

Historian

Lerner is the foremost historian in defining the scope and importance of women's history. *The Grimké Sisters from South Carolina* (1967) was the first of her ten authoritative books on women's history topics. Lerner has been insistent that theory and practice, consciousness and action, must dynamically inform each other. At the pinnacle of her career, Lerner's two-volume *Women in History* (1986, 1993) mapped the origins and persistence of patriarchy and the resistance to it that we now call feminism.

Tania Leon (1943-)

Composer and Conductor

Leon, born in Cuba, immigrated to New York in 1967, and continued her work of performing, directing, conducting and composing music. She directed and conducted the Broadway musical *The Wiz* and *Dance in America* for public television. In 1993, Leon was a composer for the New York Philharmonic, using gospel, jazz, Latin and African elements in her music. In 1994, Leon started the Sounds of the Americas festival. Her opera "Scourge of Hyacinths" premiered in 1994 and won Best Composition prize at Munich.

Queen Lili'uokalani (1838–1917)

Monarch

The last reigning monarch of Hawaii, Lili'uokalani inherited a difficult situation in 1891. Foreigners forced through a new constitution which took away voting rights from most Hawaiians. A revolution, encouraged by the American government, forced Lili'uokalani to abdicate in 1893 and in 1898, the Hawaiian Islands were annexed by the United States. Among her legacies are over 200 songs she composed, including the very popular "Aloha Oe."

Maya Lin (1959-)

Architect, Sculptor

Lin wrote, "Sculpture is like poetry, architecture is like prose." As a Yale student in 1981, Lin's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unanimously chosen from 14,241 models. Her Wall design is acclaimed as one of the greatest war memorials ever created. Among other designs, Lin created the Civil Rights Memorial at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Alabama and the Langston Hughes Library in Tennessee. In 2000, her book *Boundaries* was published.

Belva Lockwood (1830-1917)

Lawyer, Women's Rights Activist

Lockwood graduated from the National University Law School in Washington, D.C. in 1873. In 1879, she was the first woman admitted to practice before the Supreme Court where, in 1900, she argued and won \$5 million for the Eastern Cherokee Indians. She ran for president in 1884 and 1888 as the National Equal Rights Party candidate. Lockwood joined the Universal Peace Union, and in 1889 was a delegate to the International Peace Congress.

Maria Lopez de Hernandez (1896-1986)

Civil Rights Activist

Lopez de Hernandez worked for the improvement of civic, educational, and economic opportunity for the Mexican-American community. In 1929, she co-founded the Orden Caballeros of America, a civic and civil rights organization. She protested and wrote against the segregated and inferior education Mexican American children received. In 1970, she played a large role in the development of the Raza Unida Party to gain power through politics.

Susan Love (1948-)

Women's Health and Breast Cancer Research Expert

A founder of the breast cancer advocacy movement, Dr. Love co-founded the National Breast Cancer Coalition which includes more than 200 organizations and thousands of members devoted to gathering input from breast cancer advocates as well as obtaining federal funding for research. As a surgeon and author, Love encourages physicians to listen more closely to their patients.

Juliette Low (1860- 1927)

Founder of Girl Scouts USA

Low admired the work done by the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides in England which enrolled children of many backgrounds including the disabled. In 1912, Low founded similar groups in Georgia, and in 1915, the official title of Girl Scouts of America was adopted with Low president. By 1927, there were troops in every state with goals of helping girls learn to be resourceful, skillful, and independent. Low's birthday, October 31, is celebrated as Scouts Founder's Day.

Mary Lyon (1797-1849)***Founder, Mount Holyoke College***

Seeing the need for better education for women, Lyon devised plans for an endowed seminary for women combining high academic standards and work to keep tuition low. She raised the first \$1000; South Hadley promised \$8000. A new four-story building housed the Mount Holyoke Female Seminary that opened in November, 1837 with 80 students and continued to grow in size, curriculum and enrollment. Lyon was principal for 12 years.

Wilma Mankiller (1945-)***American Indian, Civil Rights Activist***

Mankiller lived in San Francisco in 1969 when she and friends from the Indian Center successfully occupied Alcatraz and brought national attention to the needs of Indians. She returned to Oklahoma and became deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1983. She was elected principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma in 1985, the first woman to be elected to this position. Mankiller served for 10 years and in 1991, she won with 82% of the vote.

Sonia Manzano (1950-)***Actress***

Manzano appeared in the original Broadway production of *Godspell* in New York. In 1972, she played the shopkeeper in the children's TV show, *Sesame Street*. Manzano also wrote for the show. She has won seven Emmy Awards for her work. She was also nominated for an Emmy for Best Performer in a Children's Program. Manzano has also appeared in other plays including *The Living Room*.

Maria Montoya Martinez (1887–1980)***Artist, Potter***

Martinez lived in the small, ancient Tewa Indian village of San Ildefonso, New Mexico, where she learned the traditional Pueblo way of making coiled pottery from her aunt, Tia Nicolasa. She and her husband rediscovered the ancient techniques of firing polychrome and black-on-black pottery. These fine designs are highly praised today, and this blend of the old and new has helped produce economic self-sufficiency for the Indian village.

Vilma Martinez (1943-)***Civil Rights Attorney and Lawyer***

Martinez graduated from Columbia University with a law degree in 1967. Knowing discrimination herself as a Latina, she has worked to ensure that the rights of traditionally underrepresented people are respected. Martinez was president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) from 1973–1982, building it into a powerful civil rights organization with regional offices. For a decade, she was a regent of the University of California.

Barbara McClintock (1902–1992)***Nobel Prize Scientist***

A genetic scientist, McClintock won the Nobel Prize in 1983 for her 1951 discovery of “jumping genes.” While studying maize, or Indian corn, McClintock found that some genes move around rather than remaining stationary as previously thought. She became a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1944 and received the National Medal of Science in 1970. McClintock is regarded as one of the most influential geneticists of the twentieth century.

Margaret Mead (1901–1978)***Anthropologist, Author***

Mead received a Ph.D. from Columbia in 1929 after studying families in Samoa, New Guinea and other cultures, concluding there is no “natural” assignment of gender roles. She also investigated many western

cultures and wrote books about the changing roles of women and men. She wrote over 30 books and hundreds of articles and pamphlets. In 1979, Mead was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contributions to scientific research.

Patsy Mink (1927-2002)

Congresswoman, Women's Rights Activist

Mink, the first Asian American elected to Congress, served 12 terms in Congress, beginning in 1965. She helped draft and win passage of Title IX in 1972. She was a founding member of the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971. She authored legislation for the Women's Educational Equity Act in 1973. Mink worked for women's rights, health, labor, education and environmental issues; she opposed capital punishment and the Vietnam War.

Maria Mitchell (1818-1889)

Astronomer

In 1847, Mitchell discovered a comet; later, it was named for her and she received a gold medal from the King of Denmark. In 1848, she was the first woman elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Mitchell was astronomy professor at Vassar College from 1865 to 1888. In 1873, she co-founded the Association for the Advancement of Women. As chair of the science committee until her death, she pleaded for recognition of women's scientific abilities.

Alicia Dickerson Montemayor (1902–1989)

Latina Activist, Artist

Montemayor worked to end discrimination and improve the lives of Latino families. In 1937, she became the first woman in the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) to hold a national office not specifically designated for women. That same year, she became the first woman to serve on the board of the LULAC News and helped start Junior LULAC. At age 74, Montemayor began painting. Under the name ADMonty, her vibrant works have been widely exhibited.

Toni Morrison (1931-)

Nobel Prize Author

Morrison was the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature, in 1993. She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988 for her novel, *Beloved*. Morrison's lyrical, richly detailed works speak of family, history, and prejudice, making visible the lives of black women in America. Since publishing her first book in 1970, Morrison has written seven novels, two volumes of essays, and a play. She is currently a professor at Princeton University.

Ellen Ochoa (1958-)

Astronaut

Ochoa was the first female Hispanic astronaut who, in 1993, served on a nine-day mission aboard the shuttle Discovery. The astronauts were studying the earth's ozone layer. A pioneer of spacecraft technology, she patented an optical system to detect defects in a repeating pattern. At the NASA Ames Research Center, she led a research group working primarily on optical systems for automated space exploration.

Sandra Day O'Connor (1930-)

Supreme Court Justice

O'Connor became the first woman Supreme Court justice when she was named by President Reagan in 1981. After graduating from Stanford Law School in 1952, O'Connor was an Arizona state senator from 1969 to 1974 where she was the first woman to be majority leader of a state senate. In 1979, she became the first woman on the Arizona Court of Appeals. Her service on the country's highest court has paved a way for more women in the judicial system.

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887–1986)

Artist

Famous for her stunning combination of technique and vision, her brilliant colors and simplicity of form, O'Keeffe ranks as one of our great contemporary American artists. She broke all rules for women artists of her time with the boldness of her paintings. She is best known for her precisely painted, highly stylized studies of southwest desert landscapes and natural objects, flowers, birds, and bones, the “beautiful shapes,” she once said, “that I see in my mind.”

Graciela Olivarez (1928-)

Lawyer

Olivarez is a former chair of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF). Olivarez and Vilma Martinez were the first women on the board. Olivarez worked as a volunteer helping the poor and the physically disadvantaged. President Carter named her Director of Community Services Administrations in 1977. A professor of Law at the University of New Mexico she served as director for the Institute for Social Research and Development.

Kitty O'Neal (1946-)

Stuntwoman

O'Neal is one of the world's greatest stunt women. She drove a 48,000 horsepower car at 618 miles per hour. She jumped off a 105 foot cliff, has crashed cars, been set on fire, and jumped off a ten-story building. She has performed stunts for TV shows such as “Bionic Woman” and “Gemini Man.” In 1970, O'Neal set a world record as the fastest woman on water skis at the speed of 104.85 mph. She was a diver and competed for the US in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo.

Nina Otero-Warren (1881-)

Educator, Politician, Suffragist

Between 1914 and 1920, Otero-Warren worked for woman suffrage in New Mexico. She became superintendent of public schools in Santa Fe County in 1918. As superintendent, Warren made improvements in rural schools. During WWI, she worked with the Red Cross. In 1921, she ran for the Congress and lost. Otero-Warren was then appointed Inspector of Indian Schools in Santa Fe County in 1923 and was able to improve education for Native Americans.

Essie Parrish (1903-1979)

Kashaya Pomo Doctor

Parrish is believed to be the last of four leaders sent to guide the Kashaya Pomos. She was a religious, spiritual, and political leader of her tribe. She taught in the reservation school for the Pomos because she wanted to teach the children in the Indian language and of their culture. Parrish could also interpret people's dreams.

Alice Paul (1885–1977)

Suffragist, Founder of the Congressional Union

Arrested six times and jailed three times for suffrage demonstrations in England, Paul returned to the United States with radical ideas for the American movement. In 1913, she staged a huge parade in Washington, D.C., and organized pickets at the White House throughout 1917. Paul drafted the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923, and for over fifty years, she led the movement to have the ERA become part of the Constitution.

Frances Perkins (1880–1965)

Government Leader

Secretary of Labor from 1933 through 1945, Frances Perkins was the first woman to hold a cabinet level position. After witnessing the Triangle shirtwaist fire in 1911, where 146 women workers lost their lives, she worked for safety legislation for industrial workers in New York State. As Secretary of Labor,

Perkins secured legislation to provide unemployment relief, public works, Social Security, minimum wage and maximum hours and prohibition of child labor.

Esther Peterson (1906-1996)

Labor Educator, Government Official

Throughout her life and in many different areas, Esther Peterson worked to protect the rights of working people. As Assistant Secretary of Labor and Director of the Women's Bureau, she led successful campaigns for equal pay for equal work. She directed the first President's Commission on the Status of Women. In 1993, President Clinton named her a delegate to the UN General Assembly where she continued to advocate for the needs of working Americans.

Mary Pickford (1893-1979)

Actress

Pickford, star of Broadway productions and silent and talking films, was loved as "America's Sweetheart." A very savvy businesswoman, she co-founded United Artists in 1919 with the revolutionary idea of allowing filmmakers to have total artistic control over their films. As co-owner of United Artists, Mary Pickford became a millionaire several times over. In 1928, she won an Academy Award for "Coquette." She continued producing films into the 1930s.

Leontyne Price (1927-)

Soprano Opera Diva

An operatic soprano of stunning musical talent, Price began her career in 1952 by singing the lead in Virgil Thomson's "*Four Saints in Three Acts*." She sang Bess in Gershwin's "*Porgy and Bess*" in the US and abroad. She was the first black singer to appear in a televised opera when she sang in Puccini's "*Tosca*," in 1955. Since retiring, Price has written a children's book, *Aida* (1990), based on that opera. Her achievements and confidence provide a spirited role model.

"Ma" Rainey (1886-1939)

Blues Singer

Born Gertrude Pridgett in Georgia, "Ma" Rainey was one of the last great minstrel artists and the earliest known black woman blues singer. Rainey began as a singing comedian with her husband in 1904. She attained national stardom in the 1920s through a recording contract. With her rich contralto voice, she recorded at least 92 songs from 1923 to 1928 and has been called "Mother of the Blues." She mentored the young Bessie Smith and influenced many others.

Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973)

Congresswoman, Suffragist, Peace Activist

Rankin began her political work in Montana campaigning for woman suffrage. In 1916, running on a pro-suffrage and anti-war platform, she became the first woman elected to the US Congress. She voted against entering WWI and then worked for improved pay and better conditions for government women. Elected to Congress again in 1940, she voted against entering World War II. In 1967, she led the Jeannette Rankin Brigade in a demonstration against the Vietnam War.

Florence Reece (1900-1986)

Labor Song Writer

In 1931, bloody violence erupted in Harlan County, Kentucky, after coal miners went on strike for decent wages. Reece, wife of one of the coal miners, experienced the violence and was inspired to write the song, "*Which Side Are You On?*" Her lyrics expose strike violence as a class struggle. The song has become one of the most famous of the American labor movement.

Sally Ride (1951-)*Astronaut*

Ride became the first American woman in space in 1983, serving as mission specialist and flight engineer for the 6-day flight of the “Challenger” shuttle. Ride made a second flight in 1984, and then left NASA in 1987. With a doctorate in astrophysics, she now directs the California Space Institute at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, researching ways to preserve the earth’s environment by using space technology.

Robin Roberts (1960-)*Athlete, TV Sports Journalist*

Star of the Southern Louisiana University Lions basketball team, Roberts was one of three women to score 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds. In 1990 she joined ESPN, covering events including basketball and the Olympic games. Roberts received the 1993 Excellence in Sports Journalism Award for Broadcast Media. She has advised the Women’s Sports Foundation and has received awards for expanding the image of women in broadcast journalism.

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962)*Humanitarian*

Although a shy child, Eleanor Roosevelt became one of the greatest humanitarians of the 20th century. During the Roosevelt Administration, she used her position to promote reforms to help women, minorities, and poor people. As the “eyes and ears” for her husband, she provided essential information about Americans' concerns. In 1948, as a delegate to the United Nations, she worked brilliantly to win passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ernestine Rose (1810-1892)*Suffragist, Reformer*

Rose joined Stanton and others in 1840 fighting for passage in New York of the married women’s property bill which took 20 years to be passed in full. In 1850, she called for “political, legal, and social equality with man.” Her lectures included themes of anti-slavery, temperance and freedom of thought. Anthony wrote that the suffrage movement pioneers “begin with Mary Wollstonecraft . . . then Frances Wright – then Ernestine L. Rose.”

Harilyn Rousso (1946)*Disabled Rights Activist*

Harilyn Rousso, a pioneer activist in both disability rights and feminism, whose informed work and extraordinary talent has empowered countless women and girls with disabilities. Her life and work demonstrate that women and men with disabilities can and should lead the lives they choose.

Wilma Rudolph (1940–1994)*Olympic Athlete*

In 1960, Rudolph became the first American woman to win three Olympic gold medals for track and field. This feat is even more astounding because she had been crippled by illness and was not able to walk until she was eight years old. She continued breaking records until she retired in 1962. In 1974, she was inducted into the Black Athletes Hall of Fame. To encourage young athletes, she founded the Wilma Rudolph Foundation in 1981.

Sacajawea (1784-1812)*Frontier Guide*

Sacajawea was a Shoshone woman sold to a fur trader, Charbonneau, when she was fourteen. Lewis and Clark hired Charbonneau as an interpreter; Sacajawea was a translator and guide. She traveled with her two-month old baby nicknamed “Pomp.” She saved the expedition when she met her long-lost brother, a

Shoshone, who prevented conflicts with unfriendly tribes. Lewis named a “handsome river” in Montana for Sacajawea, this trusted interpreter.

Buffy Sainte-Marie (1941-)

Singer

A Cree Indian, Sainte-Marie has supported Native American rights through her songs. Her intense political songs in the folk style of the 1960's, like “Universal Soldier” and “Now That the Buffalo's Gone,” established her solid reputation as a songwriter and vocalist. Her first album debuted in 1964, and her latest in 1991. Sainte-Marie has written over 300 songs which have been recorded by her and more than 100 artists in seven languages.

Margaret Sanger (1879–1966)

Nurse, Birth Control Advocate

As a public health nurse in New York, Sanger anguished over the dismal lives of women burdened with unwanted pregnancies. In 1914, she began work to legalize “birth control.” In 1916, she opened the first family-planning clinic. In 1921, she founded the American Birth Control League, which became the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in 1942. Sanger overcame government opposition, legal battles, voluntary exile, and a jail sentence to aid women.

Rose Schneiderman (1882–1972)

Union Organizer

A Russian-Jewish immigrant working in New York's garment industry, Schneiderman organized workers for the Women's Trade Union League in 1908 and became its president in 1928, a position she held for 20 years. She was an ardent suffragist, and ran for the US Senate in 1920 on a campaign of better working conditions. She served on the Labor Advisory Board of Roosevelt's NRA for two years, and was a founding member of the ACLU.

Tye Leung Schulze (1888–1972)

Interpreter

Schulze was the federal government's first Chinese American civil servant. In 1910, she worked as an interpreter at the Angel Island Detention Center where Chinese immigrants were held until their immigration papers were approved. In 1912, 21-year-old Leung became the first Chinese-American woman to vote. When she married a Caucasian, she and her husband lost their jobs because of California's miscegenation laws forbidding mixed marriages.

Leslie Marmon Silko (1948-)

Author, Poet

Silko, raised on the Laguna Pueblo Indian Reservation, listened to the traditional stories told by her great-grandmother. These tales later informed her poetry and novels. Her first book of poems, *Laguna Woman*, published in 1974, was followed in 1982 by *Storyteller*, a book of poetry and photographs. Silko's novel, *Ceremony*, in 1977 received critical acclaim. In 1991 her book, *Almanac of the Dead*, condemned the exploitation of native Americans.

Beverly Sills (1929-)

Coloratura Opera Diva

Sills was a child prodigy, a radio star at age 7. She made her operatic debut in 1946 at the Philadelphia Civic Opera and her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1975 where she sang in 46 performances in the next 5 years. She has served as chairwoman of the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts. Sills served as national chair of the March of Dimes' Mothers' March on Birth Defects for 10 years. In 1998, Sills received the MS Hope Award for her work with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Lillian Smith (1897-1966)

Author

Smith published the first southern journal which included black and white authors. Her first novel, *Strange Fruit*, dealt with interracial love. Banned in Massachusetts, a ban by the US Post Office was quickly stopped by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1944. Other novels dealt with the moral effects of segregation and the hysteria accompanying the McCarthy charges of the 1950s. Smith was on the board of CORE for many years and inspired many black leaders.

Margaret Chase Smith (1897-1995)

Senator

Smith served as a Maine congresswoman from 1940 to 1948 where she supported the Lend-Lease agreement with Britain and the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. From 1948 to 1973, Smith served in the Senate. In 1950, she was the first Senator to challenge the smear tactics of Senator McCarthy in her senate floor speech, "A Declaration of Conscience." In 1964, she sought the Republican nomination for president and received 27 votes at the convention.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)

Women's Rights Activist

Stanton spearheaded the demand for equal rights for women. In 1848, she and 4 friends organized the historic women's rights convention in Seneca Falls where Stanton made gaining suffrage, ownership of property, and guardianship of children some of the rights for women. Stanton and Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869; Stanton served as its president for 21 years. She was an eloquent speaker for her ideas and a forceful writer.

Gertrude Stein (1874-1946)

Writer

Stein's first book was *Three lives* (1909) about three working class women. In 1914, she wrote *Tender Buttons*, which was influenced by cubism. Stein wrote an opera, *Four Saints in Three Acts*, in 1934; Virgil Thompson wrote the music for it. Stein wrote about the soldiers during the German occupation of France in *Brewsie and Willie* in 1946. Stein remained in France during WWII and wrote a book of her experiences, *Wars I have Seen*. .

Gloria Steinem (1934-)

Women Rights Activist, Writer

Steinem graduated from Smith College in 1956. She received a fellowship to study in India where she saw the oppression of women and the power of non-violent protests. Her insights resulted in a book, *A Thousand Indias*, written for the Indian government in 1957 but never published. In 1972, she co-founded *Ms* magazine. A collection of Steinem's essays and articles, *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, was published in 1983.

Lucy Stone (1818-1893)

Abolitionist, Women's Rights Activist, Suffragist

Lucy Stone was a noted speaker for abolitionism and women's rights. For several years, she lectured wearing the Bloomer costume. In 1852, she led the call for the first national woman's rights convention held in Worcester, Massachusetts. When she married Henry Blackwell in 1855, she kept her own name and became "Mrs. Stone." In 1869, she helped form and lead the American Woman Suffrage Association which for 47 years published the "Women's Journal."

Anne Sullivan (1866-1936)

Teacher

In 1886, Sullivan graduated from the Perkins Institute for the Blind. She became Helen Keller's very patient and innovative teacher when Helen was seven years old and guided her education through graduation from Radcliffe in 1904. Sullivan continued to help Keller in her writing and lecturing achievements. International recognition for both women included honorary degrees from Temple University in 1931 and in 1936 medals from Roosevelt Memorial Foundation.

Emma Tenayuca (1916–1999)

Labor Organizer

As a student, Tenayuca realized her life of poverty as a Latina differed greatly from the living conditions of Americans described in her schoolbooks. As a labor organizer, she worked to improve the opportunities of poor people, especially Latinos. She worked to end unfair child labor practices. She is best known for her fiery speeches and union organizing work which began in a successful 1934 strike on behalf of pecan shellers in a Texas food processing plant.

Mary Church Terrell (1863-1954)

Women's Rights Activist

Terrell graduated from Oberlin in 1884. In the 1890s, she began lecturing at forums and colleges against lynching and discrimination and for woman suffrage. She picketed the White House in 1917. She was a charter member of the NAACP and picketed to desegregate lunchrooms in D.C. in the 1950s. She served on the executive committees of both the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Susette La Flesche Tibbles (1854- 1903)

Indian Rights Advocate, Author

Tibbles taught at an Indian school after being educated in the East. In 1887, her Indian tribe, Ponca, was forcibly removed from their land on the Dakota-Nebraska border. Tibbles lectured in the East and made many converts to the cause of Indian rights, including Helen Hunt Jackson. In addition to writing Indian stories, in 1881 Tibbles addressed the Association for the Advancement of Women on "The Position, Occupation and Culture of Indian Women."

Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)

Abolitionist, Suffragist

Sojourner Truth was freed when New York abolished slavery in 1828. She successfully sued for freedom for a son who had been sold illegally. Already a forceful speaker for abolition, she attended a Women's Rights Convention in 1850 and became a strong voice for women's rights and suffrage with her famous speech in Ohio in 1852, "Ain't I a Woman?" After the Civil War, she tried to get Congress to provide land in the West for newly freed blacks.

Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)

Fugitive Slave, Rescuer of Slaves

Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland. In 1849, she fled to Philadelphia but returned to Maryland the next year to begin the first of many Underground Railroad trips to lead family and friends to freedom using caution, skill, and subterfuge. Some passengers she escorted to Canada. In the Civil War, Tubman was a spy and scout for the Union in the Sea Islands. In 1896, she spoke at the convention of the American National Woman Suffrage Association convention.

Yoshiko Uchida (1921–1992)

Author

From the first book she wrote at age ten, Uchida created the genre of Japanese-American literature for children. Her most famous book, *Journey to Topaz*, like most of her 28 books, depicts the unique experiences of young Japanese Americans and how they developed the inner strength needed to deal with

the conflicts they faced. Her work has eased the transition for recent immigrant youths and has helped bring about a better understanding of Japanese culture.

Wilma Vaught (1930-)

Retired Brigadier General

One of the most-decorated military women in U.S. history and the Air Force's first female general, after retiring in 1980, General Vaught was the driving force behind the building and dedication of the *Women in Military Service for America Memorial* in Washington, DC. She served on the Committee on Women in the Armed Forces in NATO, 1984-85. Vaught was also a member of the International Women's Forum.

Madam C.J. Walker (1867–1919)

Entrepreneur

Sarah Breedlove (Madam C.J. Walker) was America's first black woman millionaire. The first to create cosmetics specifically for black women, she developed a hair-straightening comb and other hair-care products. Successful promotions led to opportunities for thousands of black women who operated beauty shops nationwide. She donated generously to NAACP's anti-lynching campaign in 1919, the suffrage movement, and many other civic and educational groups.

Rebecca Walker (1969-)

Youth Organizer

Founder of the Third Wave Foundation in 1992, Walker teaches social activism across the country to women aged 15 to 30 as a means to combat inequalities faced by young women. In 1992, these young people registered 20,000 new voters in inner cities. Walker encourages young women to be at the forefront of social change movements.

Annie Dodge Wauneka (1910–1997)

Healer

Wauneka was the first woman delegate elected to the Navajo tribal council in 1951. For the next 17 years, the "Warrior Who Scouts the Enemy" successfully blended modern medicine and traditional healing practices to combat a tuberculosis epidemic and other diseases, resulting in a dramatic decrease in the death rate. Revered as "the most honored Navajo in our history," in 1963, Wauneka became the first American Indian to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862–1931)

Journalist

Wells-Barnett began a daring editorial campaign against lynching in her *Memphis Free Speech* newspaper in 1892. After her office was sacked, she continued her fearless crusade in New York City as a journalist and traveling lecturer, organizing anti-lynching societies in many cities. Moving to Chicago, Wells-Barnett published *A Red Record* in 1895, a detailed book about lynching. Throughout her life, she remained militant in her demand for justice for black Americans.

Frances Willard (1839-1898)

Temperance Leader, Feminist

From 1879 to 1898, Willard was president of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She extended its mission from legal prohibition of liquor to include a broad range of causes including woman suffrage, peace through arbitration, and raising the age of consent. She exhorted women to "Do Everything." She lectured to large crowds in every state and territory. Her statue by Helen Mears represents Illinois in the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Mary Louise Defender Wilson (1930-)

Storyteller

Mary Louise Defender Wilson is a **Dakotah/Hidatsa storyteller who began collecting stories** that tell of the traditions of the old and connect the ancient and the present. Since she was young, she heard stories that had been handed down through the generations. Today, she continues her work through radio programs and CD recording and relates stories that celebrate the idea that all generations need to be connected with a sense of purpose and history.

Sarah Winnemucca (1844-1891)

Indian Rights Activist

Winnemucca, a Paiute Indian, was a liaison between the Paiutes in Nevada and the army in the 1870s. After the Bannock Uprising in 1878, Winnemucca lectured to publicize the injustices suffered by the Paiutes. She wrote a book, *Life Among the Paiutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*, which won wide popular support. She took thousands of signatures on her petition to Congress that passed a law giving land grants to the Paiutes, but the Secretary of the Interior ignored its provisions.

Jade Snow Wong (1922-)

Artist, Author

Jade Snow Wong is a talented artist who began selling her work in Chinatown in San Francisco. Her art is displayed in museums across the nation. Wong's enamels and pottery blend ancient Chinese and American techniques. She is also gifted in writing literature. Her first book, *Fifth Chinese Daughter*, is about a traditional Chinese family adapting to American conditions in San Francisco. Later, Wong wrote *No Chinese Stranger*.

Chien-Shiung Wu (1912–1997)

Scientist

Chien-Shiung Wu came to the United States to study science as a teenager and became “the world’s foremost female experimental physicist” because of her significant contributions to nuclear physics. Experiments she devised and conducted disproved the “conservation of parity” principle. Wu received the National Science Medal in 1975 and the internationally respected Wolf Prize in 1978. At Columbia University she studied the movement of atomic particles, the tiniest known forms of matter.

Alice Yu (1905-)

Teacher

Alice Yu was the first Chinese American teacher in the San Francisco Unified School District. She was a teacher for the students who predominantly spoke Chinese at Commodore Stockton in Chinatown. Later, Yu traveled to other schools to help students with speech disabilities. Today, there is a Chinese immersion school named after Alice Fong Yu, in San Francisco, for children of all backgrounds.

Mildred “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias (1914–1956)

Athlete

Zaharias is probably the greatest woman athlete of the 20th century. She set world records and won gold medals at the 1932 Olympics in the javelin throw and 80-meter hurdles. Between 1932 and 1954, Zaharias was named the Associated Press Woman Athlete of the Year six times. A champion golf player, she won 17 straight amateur tournaments in 1947 and the U.S. Women’s Open in 1948, 1950, and 1954. She was also active in basketball, swimming, diving, baseball, football, and figure skating.